

# The Great Katy Chicken Challenge

We are spicing up the main  
course with old favorites and  
adventurous new choices

You can *bake it, grill it, sauté it,*  
or *smoke it*. Let's face it, chicken  
is one of the most versatile and  
delicious dishes out there.

We combed the city to find  
some of the tastiest, most  
unique entrées in Katy.

So here it is friends, *our*  
*challenge* to you should  
you choose to accept  
it: venture out and try  
all of these *decadent*  
*dishes*.

Written by Kirsten Cornell

Bourbon Barrel Chicken  
at TGI Fridays



## 1000 DEGREES NEAPOLITAN PIZZA

24600 Katy Fwy. | 1000degreespizza.com

Walk on the wild side with 1000 Degrees' Tuscan chicken pizza. Shredded mozzarella, asiago, chicken, spinach, and marinated balsamic sun-dried tomatoes all piled onto a delicious crust browned to perfection in a brick oven. If you're not afraid of a little tang, the buffalo chicken pizza combines buffalo sauce, shredded mozzarella, blue cheese chunks, and grilled chicken.

## APPLEBEE'S BAR & GRILL

19625 Restaurant Row, Houston | applebees.com

If you're looking for something refreshing, try the caprese mozzarella chicken. Your taste buds won't know what hit them when you bite into grilled chicken breast delicately layered with fresh mozzarella, tomato, red onion, and basil with a balsamic glaze. Not to worry, you'll get your carbs with a serving of their garlic mashed potatoes on the side.

## CARRABBA'S ITALIAN GRILL

6501 S. Fry Rd. | carrabbas.com

When two Sicilian boys from Texas found their way to a kitchen, amazing dishes were created. The pollo Rosa Maria is no exception. Wood-grilled chicken is stuffed with fontina cheese, prosciutto, and mushrooms then topped with a basil lemon butter sauce that will have you salivating. They also have Italian favorites like Tuscan-grilled chicken or Mama Mandola's chicken Parmesan on the menu.

## CRACKER BARREL OLD COUNTRY STORE

18151 Katy Fwy., Houston | crackerbarrel.com

Contrary to popular belief, Cracker Barrel has more to offer than just hearty breakfast platters. Not one to just serve you a run-of-the-mill sandwich, their chicken BLT starts with your choice of grilled or fried chicken tenders, adds thick-sliced bacon, Colby cheese, mayo, lettuce, and tomato, then takes it all and slides it ever so nicely on top of seared sourdough bread. But if you can't go without your scrambled eggs, order the Uncle Herschel's Favorite and you can still have chicken tenders as your protein.

## BJ'S RESTAURANT & BREWHOUSE

20536 Katy Fwy. | bjsrestaurants.com

Take a walk on the spicy side with BJ's fire-roasted barbacoa chicken. Barbacoa-spiced, marinated chicken breast served over brown rice and black beans, then topped with feta cheese, cilantro, crema, and fire-roasted tomato salsa. It will definitely add some pep to your step! Also on the spicy side of life is the New Orleans jambalaya which combines blackened chicken breast, shrimp, chicken-andouille sausage, bell peppers, white onions, and tomatoes in a spicy sauce and serves the entire delicious concoction over rice pilaf.



Jacob Howard

Tuscan Chicken Pizza at 1000 Degrees



Pollo Rosa Maria at Carrabba's Italian Grill



Chicken BLT at Cracker Barrel



### EPHESUS MEDITERRANEAN GRILL

510 S. Mason Rd. | [ephesusgrills.com](http://ephesusgrills.com)

You'll be met with a mix of tantalizing spices when you step through the door at Ephesus. Their baked platter of chargrilled, marinated chicken kebabs with yogurt will leave you drooling. Served with grilled tomato and green peppers on a bed of toasted bread, you won't leave hungry either. For a slightly different flavor, you can also try the ground chicken kebab as well.

### LA BALANCE CUISINE

20680 Westheimer Pkwy. | [labalancecuisine.com](http://labalancecuisine.com)

Enjoy a taste of the French Riviera right here in Katy! Located in Cinco Ranch, La Balance offers Katyites a contemporary twist on classic favorites. One of their signature dishes is the poulet cordon bleu, which means a chef of the highest class, and is chicken stuffed with ham and delicate cheeses then lightly breaded before it is pan-fried. The mouthwatering dish is served with smoked potatoes, spinach, and a Parmesan Dijon sauce.

### LEAFOLOGY TEA LOUNGE

9006 S. Fry Rd. | 27131 Cinco Ranch Blvd.  
[leafologytealounge.com](http://leafologytealounge.com)

This trendy new hot spot serves an amazing array of teas and tasty treats to go with them. Order up a chicken chipotle panini which layers their signature chipotle chicken with pepper jack cheese, lettuce, and tomatoes all hot pressed in crisp bread. Not your style? The same delicious chicken is also served with cheese and red onion on flatbread. And you'll never go wrong with an order of their chicken potstickers but we must warn you, they are addicting.

### LOS CUCOS

5305 Bell Patna Dr. | 5831 Highway Blvd.  
[loscucos.com](http://loscucos.com)

If you like your poultry to have a little sizzle, Los Cucos is the spot for you. When the cast iron hits the table, the flavorful tendrils will about knock you out of your chair. The pollo Ixtapa is chicken breast sautéed in wine with onions, jalapeños, garlic tomatoes, cilantro, and mushrooms, topped with Monterey Jack cheese. The flavorful dish is served with rice, borracho beans, guacamole, pico de gallo, and of course, homemade flour tortillas.



Chicken Kebabs at Ephesus Grill



Fire Roasted Barbacoa Chicken at BJ's Restaurant



Chicken Bacon Ranch Sandwich at Tom + Chee



## PETER CHANG

1315 W. Grand Pkwy. S. | [peterchangkaty.com](http://peterchangkaty.com)

If you're in the market for fresh, authentic Chinese food, Peter Chang needs to be at the top of your list. All of their sauces are homemade and you can taste the difference with fresh vegetables, quality meat, and organic spices. One of their heart-breaker dishes, the Guilin chicken, is a stir fry entrée with snow peas, asparagus, leeks, and red bell peppers, all mixed in fresh garlic sauce. Keep climbing the spicy scale with the Szechuan kung pao. A numbing combination of chicken, asparagus, red bell pepper, and chili oil that's topped with roasted peanuts.

## SMASHBURGER

Multiple Locations | [smashburger.com](http://smashburger.com)

There are lots of ways to eat a delicious piece of chicken, so why not on a bun? At Smashburger they use their "smashing" technique to deliver seasoned sandwiches accompanied by an array of flavorful sauces. A fan favorite is the truffle mushroom Swiss, which piles aged Swiss, sautéed cremini mushrooms, chicken, and a blend of truffle mayo on a fluffy egg-brushed bun. If you need something a little spicier, try the jalapeño baja smash. Grilled chicken, chipotle mayo, lettuce, tomato, onion, guacamole, jalapeños, and pepper jack cheese on a chipotle bun.

## TGI FRIDAYS

5304 Bell Patna Dr. | [tgifridays.com](http://tgifridays.com)

Packed with flavor, the bourbon barrel chicken at Fridays tops the favorites list. Chicken breast seasoned with hickory-smoked sea salt is grilled over a bourbon-soaked plank (helping bring out the smoky vanilla sweetness), and then served alongside mashed potatoes and lemon-butter broccoli. Fridays also just released their southern fried chicken sandwich with battered chicken breast, lettuce, tomato, pickles, avocado, and Jack cheese layered on a soft bun with spicy mayo made from Tabasco chipotle pepper sauce.

## TOM + CHEE

21788 Katy Fwy. | [tomandchee.com](http://tomandchee.com)

When you take a comfort food classic like grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup and combine them into an eatery, you end up with genius concepts like Tom + Chee. Nestled among their heartwarming creations is the chicken bacon ranch melt - or as they lovingly say - grilled cheese with stuff in it. Wisconsin cheddar cheese, hand-carved chicken breast, applewood smoked bacon, Roma tomatoes, mixed greens, and ranch dressing are pressed warmly between two pieces of sour-white bread. Where's my napkin? KM



**RLC**  
RESORT LIFESTYLE  
COMMUNITIES<sup>®</sup>  
...  
*Oak Park*

## Oak Park Retirement Community

**OPEN  
NOW!**

If you want stress-free/maintenance-free retirement living, our apartments provide the features you desire. Designed exclusively for adults 55 and over, we offer the comforts and conveniences of modern living without the hassle of upkeep.

A few amenities include:

- ◆ One Price- All Inclusive
- ◆ Concierge & Valet Services
- ◆ On-Site Theatre & Entertainment
- ◆ No Buy-In Fees/Month-to Month Rent
- ◆ Utilities, Phone, Cable & WiFi
- ◆ Fitness Center & Wellness Programs

Apartments are renting fast, call to schedule a tour or save your spot today: 281-616-8065

1921 South Mason Road ◆ Katy, TX 77450 ◆ [OakPark-Retirement.com](http://OakPark-Retirement.com)